

Application No.: 09/787,919
Examiner: Anthony H. NGUYEN
Art Unit: 2854

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1(Currently Amended). A data medium comprising a printed image produced by the intaglio printing process, said image comprising at least one first ink area with a first ink layer thickness and at least one second ink area with a second ink thickness adjacent to the first ink area, wherein the ink layer thicknesses are different, the first and second ink areas are directly adjacent to each other and are separated from each other by ~~a sharp~~ an acute and discrete border line not visible to the naked eye, and that the ink layer thickness of both ink areas passes through a minimum in the region of the border line.

2(Previously Presented). The data medium according to Claim 1, wherein the minimum is an ink layer thickness of almost zero.

3(Previously Presented). The data medium according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the first ink area and/or the second ink area represent a pattern, graphical symbol or text symbol.

4(Withdrawn). A printing plate for the printing of adjacent ink areas, comprising a printing plate surface and engraved in the printing plate surface, at least one first engraving area with a first engraving depth and at least one second engraving area with a second engraving depth adjacent to the first engraving area, such that the engraving, depths are different, and wherein,

between the first and the second engraved areas, is arranged a separating edge the upper edge of which extends towards a point at the level of the printing plate surface.

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5(Withdrawn). The printing plate according to Claim 4, wherein

the separating edge has flank angles in the region between 15° and 60°, preferably between 30° and 50°, relative to the perpendicular to the printing plate surface.

6(Withdrawn). The printing plate according to Claim 4 or 5, wherein the first and second engraving depths lie in the region between 5 and 250 µm.

7(Withdrawn). The printing plate according to Claim 6, wherein the first and second engraving depths lie in the region between 5 and 150 µm.

8(Withdrawn). The printing plate according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the first engraved area and/or the second engraved area are forms selected from the group consisting of a pattern, a graphical symbol and a text symbol.

9(Withdrawn). The printing plate according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the first and/or the second engraved area have a floor area having a floor roughness pattern.

10(Withdrawn). An intaglio printing process for the printing of adjacent ink areas with different ink layer thicknesses, using a printing plate according to claim 4 or 5 is used.

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11(Withdrawn). A process for the manufacture of a printing plate for the printing of adjacent ink areas with different ink layer thicknesses, comprising the following steps:

providing a printing plate with a printing plate surface and

engraving a first engraving area with a first engraving depth and a second engraving area with a second engraving depth in the printing plate surface, such that between the first engraving area and the second engraving area, a separating edge remains, said separating edge having an upper edge which extends towards a point at the height of the printing plate surface.

12(Withdrawn). The process according to Claim 11, wherein the separating edges are formed with flank angles in the region of 15° to 60°, preferably 30° to 50° relative to the perpendicular to the printing plate surface.

13(Withdrawn). The process according to Claim 11 or 12, wherein an engraving tool with a suitable flank angle is used for engraving.

14(Withdrawn). The process according to Claim 13, wherein a rotating graver coming to a point is used for engraving.

15(Withdrawn). The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the engraving depths are created in the region from 5 μ m to 250 μ m.

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16(Withdrawn). The process according to Claim 15, wherein the engraving depths lie in the region from 5 μm to 150 μm .

17(Withdrawn). The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein in the first engraving area and/or in the second engraving area, a floor area with a floor roughness pattern is created.

18(Withdrawn). The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein several adjacent first engraving areas and one or more adjacent second engraving areas are engraved in the printing plate surface.

19(Withdrawn). The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the first or the several first engraving areas and/or the second or the several second engraving areas are arranged in the form of a pattern, graphical symbol or text symbol.

20(Previously Presented). A data carrier according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ink areas are of linear or areal form.

21(Previously Presented). The printing plate according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the engraved areas are formed by linear or areal depressions.

22(Previously Presented). The process according to claim 11, including forming the engraved areas by linear or areal depressions.